

# NASA's Earth Science and YOU

Kent Shiffer - Project Manager Earth Science Project Office Ames Research Center



# Pleasantville the Movie

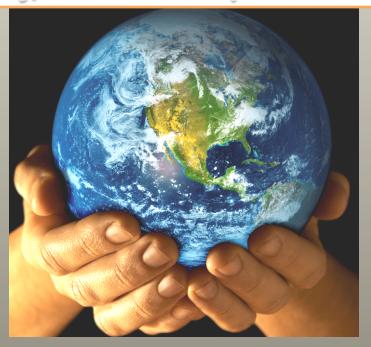
## **NASA's 2011 Mission Statement**

## Vision:

To reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind.

### Mission:

Drive advances in science, technology, and exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, economic vitality, and stewardship of the Earth





## **Overview Topics**

Global need for "Earth System" understanding

## NASA's relationship to Earth Science

Satellites (Orbital assets)

Airborne (Suborbital assets)

Ground measurements (Terrestrial assets)

# Earth Science Project Office -Ames Research Center

Current projects around the globe



#### **Executive Office of the President**

National Science and Technology Council

Chair: President, Vice Chair: OSTP Director

Members: President's Cabinet

Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainability

Co-Chairs: OSTP, NOAA, EPA

**13 Agencies and Departments** NOAA, DOI, NASA, DOE, USDA, NSF, EPA, HHS, DOT, DOS,

DOD, SI, USAID



# **US Global Change Research Program**

• USGCRP's Vision and Mission:



#### Vision:

 A nation, globally engaged and guided by science, meeting the challenges of climate and global change

#### Mission:

 To build a knowledge base that informs human responses to climate and global change through coordinated and integrated federal programs of research, education, communication, and decision support



# Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

**Earth Science Overview** 



# NASA's relationship to Earth Science

NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) science in support of the

USGCRP Focus Area



- 1. Improving our knowledge of Earth's past and present climate variability and change
- 2. Improving our understanding of natural and human forces of climate change
- 3. Improving our capability to model and predict future conditions and impacts
- 4. Assessing the Nation's vulnerability to current and anticipated impacts of climate change
- 5. Providing climate information and decision support tools
- 6. Climate Change Communication and Education



## **NASA - HQ Program Focus Areas**



#### Atmospheric Composition

- Atmospheric Chemistry Modeling and Analysis Program
- Radiation Sciences Program
- Tropospheric Chemistry Program
- Upper Atmosphere Research Program



#### **Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems**

**Ocean Biology and Biogeochemistry Program** 



#### **Weather and Forecasting**

**Atmospheric Dynamics and Remote Sensing Program** 



#### **Water and Energy Cycles**

**Cryospheric Program** 



#### <u>Airborne Science</u>

**Suborbital Sciences Program** 

# **NASA's relationship to Earth Science**

# NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS)

The Nation now has a system of spacecraft with the ability to characterize the current state of the Earth system. In the years ahead, NASA's fleet will evolve into constellations of smart satellites that can be reconfigured based on the changing needs of science and technology. From there we envision an intelligent and integrated observation network composed of sensors deployed in vantage points from the subsurface to deep space. This "sensorweb" will provide on-demand data and analysis to a wide range of end users in a timely and cost-effective manner. This observation system will have many practical benefits for scientific research, national policymaking, and economic growth.



# NASA's relationship to Earth Science Current NASA Satellite's in orbit

NASA presently has 13 on-orbit satellite missions: the Activity Cavity Radiometer Irradiance Monitor SATellite (ACRIMSAT), Aqua, Aura, the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO), the Cloud Satellite (CloudSat), the Earth Observer (EO), the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), Jason, Landsat-7, the Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM), the Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment (SORCE), Terra, and the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM).

On 24 February 2009, NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) satellite did not reach orbit altitude when the launch vehicle malfunctioned. On 11 October 2009 and 23 November 2009, respectively, the Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) and Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) satellites ceased their primary geophysical missions after many years of extended service.



# NASA's relationship to Earth Science NASA Satellite Development

NASA has seven missions in development for launch between 2010 and 2015. Five missions (Aquarius, Glory, the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Preparatory Project (NPP), the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM), and Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)) are foundational missions, which the Decadal Survey49 assumed would be precursors to Decadal Survey missions. Two missions, Soil Moisture Active-Passive (SMAP) and ICESat-2, are Tier 1 Decadal Survey missions.

The Decadal Survey is the principal determinant of the priorities of NASA's Earth Science satellite missions beyond those currently in development.



#### **NASA Earth Science Animation**





Current NASA Earth Science Satellite Operations



Earth <u>ACRIMSAT</u> ACRIMSAT is the latest in a series of long-term solar-monitoring missions, utilizing the proven Active Cavity Radiometer Irradiance Monitor III (ACRIM III) instrument. - <u>Mission Complete 2005</u>

Earth Aqua Aqua will obtain a set of precise atmosphere and oceans measurements to understand their role in Earth's climate and its variations. - Operating

Earth <u>Aura</u> The Aura satellite hosts a suite of scientific instruments designed to make the most comprehensive measurements ever undertaken of atmospheric trace gases. Operating

Earth <u>CALIPSO</u> The CALIPSO satellite was developed to help scientists answer significant questions and provide new information about the effects of clouds and aerosols (airborne particles) on changes in the Earth's climate. - Operating

Earth <u>CloudSat</u> CloudSat uses advanced radar to "slice" through clouds to see their vertical structure, providing a completely new observational capability from space.

Operating

Earth Landsat 7 Landsat 7 systematically provides well-calibrated, multispectral, moderate resolution, substantially cloud-free, Sun-lit digital images of the Earth's continental and coastal areas with global coverage on a seasonal basis. It covers the United States every 16 days. - Operating

#### Earth NOAA-N NOAA-N

Polar-orbiting platform to support the environmental monitoring instruments for imaging and measurement of the Earth's atmosphere, its surface, and cloud cover. - Operating

Earth OSTM OSTM measures sea surface height to an accuracy of < 3.3 cm every ten days. - Operating

Earth <u>Earth Observing-1 (NMP)</u> The NMP EO-1 mission is an advanced land-imaging mission that will demonstrate new instruments and spacecraft systems. - Operating

Earth GOES I - M The GOES I-M satellites are the primary element of U.S. weather monitoring and forecast operations and are a key component of NOAA's National Weather Service operations and modernization program. - Operating

Earth <u>GRACE</u> The primary goal of the GRACE mission is to accurately map variations in the Earth's gravity field over its 5-year lifetime. - Operating

Earth <u>Jason-1</u> Jason is an oceanography mission to monitor global ocean circulation, improve global climate predictions, and monitor events such as El Nino conditions and ocean eddies. - Operating

Earth <u>SeaStar (SeaWiFS)</u> The SeaStar satellite carries the SeaWiFS instrument which is designed to monitor the color of the world's oceans. - Operating

Earth <u>SeaWinds (ADEOS II)</u> The SeaWinds scatterometer is a specialized microwave radar that measures near-surface wind velocity (both speed and direction) under all weather and cloud conditions over Earth's oceans. - Operating

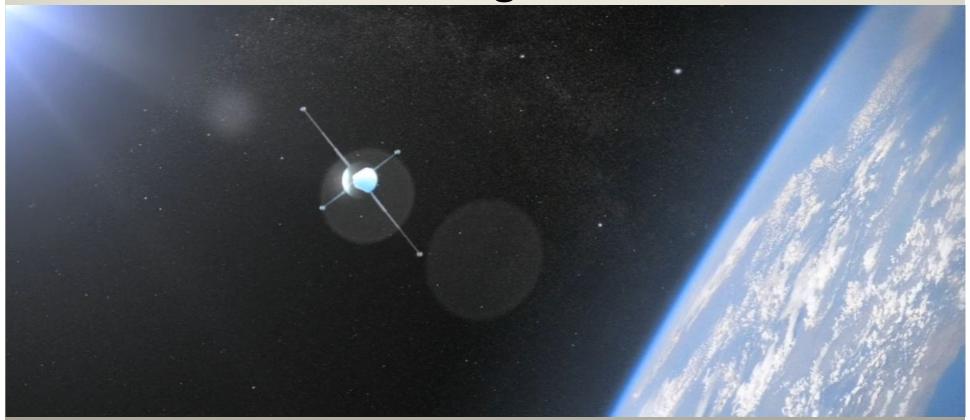
Earth <u>SORCE</u> SORCE is a NASA-sponsored satellite mission that will provide state-of-the-art measurements of incoming x-ray, ultraviolet, visible, near-infrared, and total solar radiation. - Operating

Earth <u>Terra</u> Terra (formerly EOS AM-1) is the flagship satellite of NASA's Earth observing systems. Terra is the first EOS (Earth Observing System) platform and provides global data on the state of the atmosphere, land, and oceans, as well as their interactions ... -Operating

Earth TRMM TRMM is a joint mission between NASA and the National Space Development Agency (NASDA) of Japan. TRMM is particularly devoted to determining rainfall in the tropics and subtropics of the Earth. These regions make up about two thirds of the ... Operating



# **Warming World**







# NASA Earth Science Airborne (Suborbital) Experiments

http://www.espo.nasa.gov/

Earth <u>ATTREX</u> Stratospheric water vapor has large impacts on the earth's climate and energy budget. Future changes in stratospheric humidity and ozone concentration in response to changing climate are significant climate feedbacks.

Development

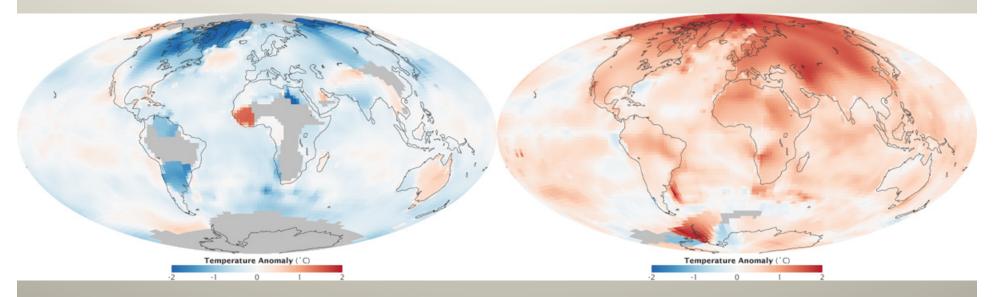
Earth <u>HS3</u> The Hurricane and Severe Storm Sentinel (HS3) is a five-year mission specifically targeted to investigate the processes that underlie hurricane formation and intensity change in the Atlantic Ocean basin. HS3 is motivated by hypotheses related to the relative roles of the large-scale environment and storm-scale internal processes.

**Development** 

Earth Operation Ice Bridge Operation Ice Bridge is a six-year airborne campaign designed to capture geophysical measurements of changes in polar ice sheets and sea ice during a gap in the space-based observations of ICESat and ICESat II.

**Operating** 

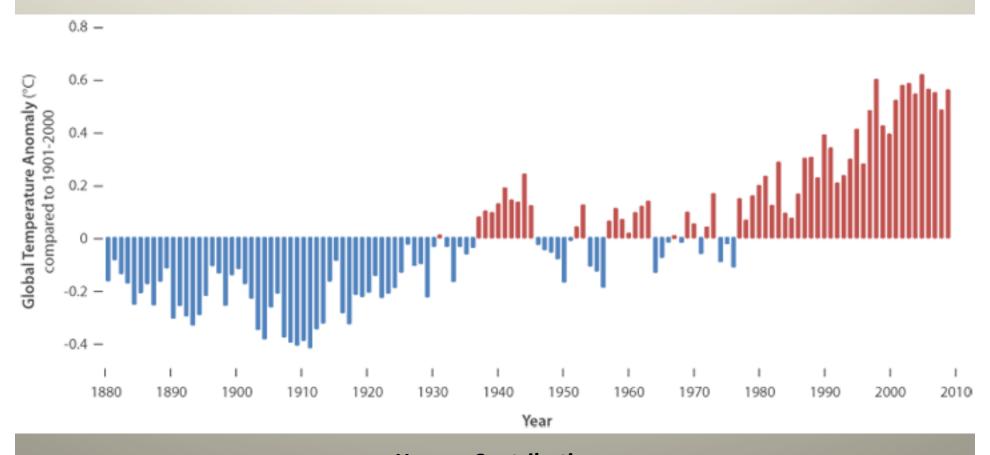
## **NASA Earth Science**



#### A CENTURY OF WARMING

Global temperature changes. Left: 1880-89. Right: 2000-09. These maps compare temperatures in each region of the world to what they were from 1951 to 1980. NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies conducted the analysis using ship-based and satellite observations of sea-surface temperature, and data from Antarctic research stations and 6,300 meteorological stations around the world. Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 0.7 °C (1.3 °F) since 1880. Two-thirds of the warming has occurred since 1975, at a rate of roughly 0.15 to 0.20 °C per decade

# **Earth's Temperature Trend**



Human Contribution=
Population Growth +
Increased Consumption



#### The Greenhouse effect

ATMOSPHERE

SUN

Some solar radiation is reflected by the atmosphere and earth's surface Outgoing solar radiation:

103 Watt per m<sup>2</sup>

Some of the infrared radiation passes through the atmosphere and is lost in space

Not outgoing infrared radiation: 200 Well per m<sup>2</sup>

GREENHOUSE GASES

Solar radiation passes through the clear atmosphere. Incoming solar radiation: 343 Watt per m<sup>2</sup> Some of the infrared radiation is absorbed and re-emitted by the greenhouse gas molecules. The direct effect is the warming of the earth's surface and the troposphere.

> Surface gains more heat and infrared radiation is emitted again.

Solar energy is absorbed by the earth's surface and warms it...

168 Watt per m<sup>2</sup>

... and is converted into heat causing the emission of longwave (infrared) radiation back to the atmosphere

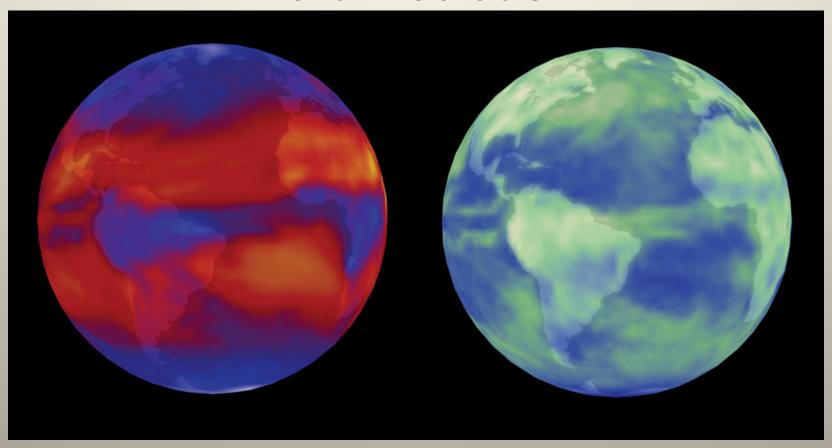
E A R T H



GRID (6)
Arendal UNEP

Sources: Okanagan university college in Canada, Department of geography, University of Oxford, school of geography; United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington; Climate change
1995, The science of climate change, contribution of working group 1 to the second assessment report of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, UNEP and WIMO, Cambridge university press, 1996.

## **Earth Radiation**



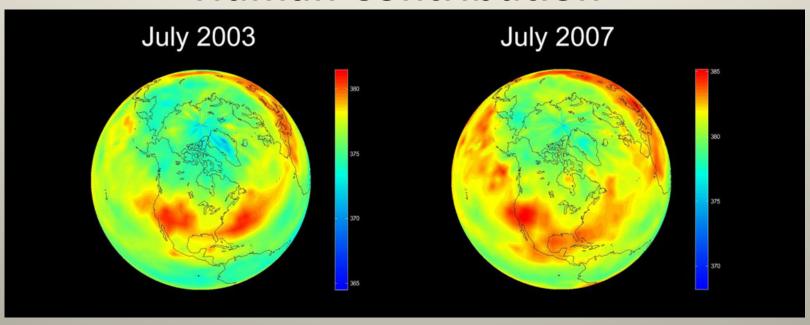
#### **HOT ROCK**

Left: April 2001; Heat given off by the Earth's surface and atmosphere and pumped out into space. Right: April 2001; Sunlight reflected back out to space by the oceans, land, clouds and aerosols. For scientists to properly understand climate change, they have to determine what drives changes within the Earth's radiation balance. These images, taken the CERES (Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System) experiment, are helping to do that.

Data courtesy of the Atmospheric Sciences Data Center and the CERES Science Team at NASA Langley Research Center. Images courtesy of Tom Bridgman, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio

# **Earth Radiation Components Earth Emitted Energy** Solar Incident **Energy** Solar Reflected Energy \*

# Earth's Changing Atmospheric Chemistry Human Contribution

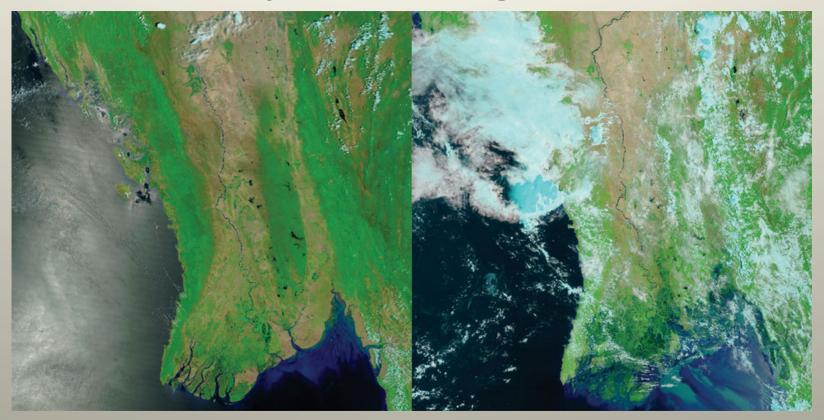


#### CARBON COUNTER

Carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere are rising. Left: July 2003. Right: July 2007. Both images show the spreading of carbon dioxide around the globe as it follows large-scale patterns of circulation in the atmosphere. The color codes in these two pictures are different in order to account for the carbon dioxide increase from 2003 to 2007. If the color bar for 2003 were to be used for 2007, the resulting 2007 map would be saturated with reddish colors, and the fine structure of the distribution of carbon dioxide obscured



# Earth's Atmosphere Changes the Coastline



On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis caused the worst natural disaster in the history of Burma (also known as Myanmar). Left: April 15, 2008. Right: May 5, 2008. Over 130,000 people were killed and, according to United Nations estimates, 1.5 million people were severely affected. More than \$10 billion of damage was done. One of the things that made Nargis so deadly was the way in which it intensified so quickly before making landfall — from a category-1 to a category-4 tropical cyclone in just 24 hours.

## Earth's Urban Growth



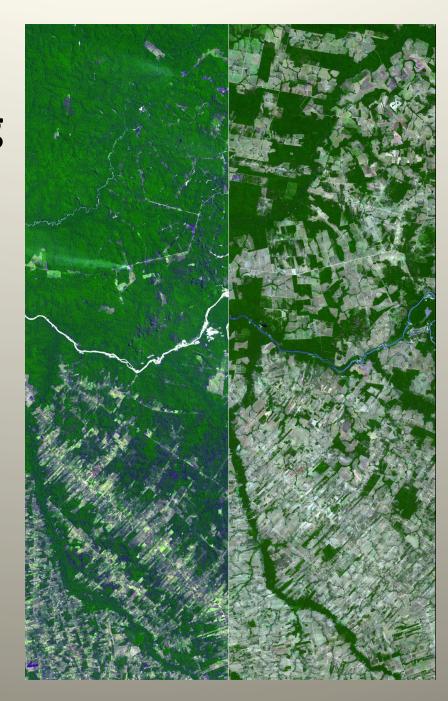
#### LAS VEGAS BOOM

Growth in the desert. Left: 1984. Right: 2007. These images show the increasing urban sprawl of Las Vegas, Nevada, and the shrinking of Lake Mead on the border of Nevada and Arizona. Rapid growth in Las Vegas has led to increased demand for water resources, while below-average rainfall has decreased the water levels in Lake Mead, which is the source of southern Nevada's water

# Earth's Changing Land Use

#### MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL

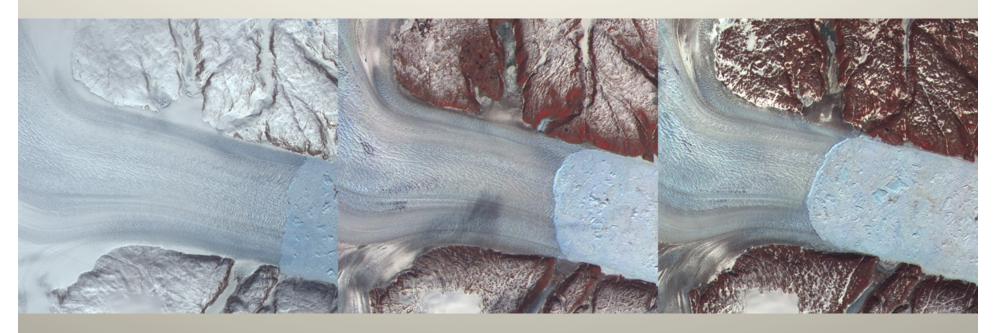
The Mato Grosso state in southwest Brazil. Left: 1992. Right: 2006. In the Brazilian Amazon, deforestation has been proceeding at a rate of about 20,000 square kilometers per year. In 2006, the image shows over 80 percent of the rainforest gone, cleared for pastureland by commercial and speculative interests.



1992 image acquired by the Landsat satellite (NASA/USGS). 2006 image acquired on July 28 by ASTER mission. Credit: NASA/GSFC/ METI/ERSDAC/JAROS and the U.S./Japan ASTER science team.



# Helheim Glacier Retreat Greenland

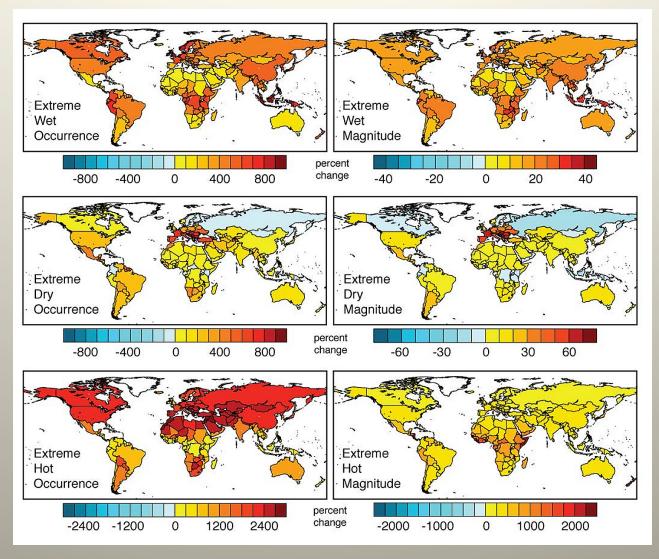


Left: May 12, 2001. Middle: July 7, 2003. Right: June 19, 2005.

Along the margin of the Greenland Ice Sheet, outlet glaciers flow as icy rivers through fjords and out to sea. These pictures show a fjord in which Helheim glacier (on the left) is crumbling into large and small icebergs (light blue, on the right). The glacier outlet ("calving front") held steady from the 1970s until about 2001, then began to retreat towards its source about 7.5 kilometers (4.7 miles) between 2001 and 2005. The glacier's flow to the sea has also sped up

NASA images created by Jesse Allen, Earth Observatory, using data from the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radior let (ASTER) on NASA's Terra satellite.

Courtesy of NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS, and the U.S./Japan ASTER Science Team



These maps show projected changes in frequency and magnitude of climate extremes. A Purdue team found that the occurrence and magnitude of what are currently the 30-year-maximum values for wet, dry and hot extremes are projected to substantially increase for much of the world. (Diffenbaugh lab image)

http://news.uns.purdue.edu/images/+2009/climatechange-maps.jpg

# Operation IceBridge Overview



# **Tour of the Cryosphere**

Sea ice is frozen seawater floating on the surface of the ocean.

Some sea ice is semi-permanent, persisting from year to year, and some is seasonal, melting and refreezing from season to season. The sea ice cover reaches its minimum extent at the end of each summer and the remaining ice is called the perennial ice cover.





# **Operation IceBridge**

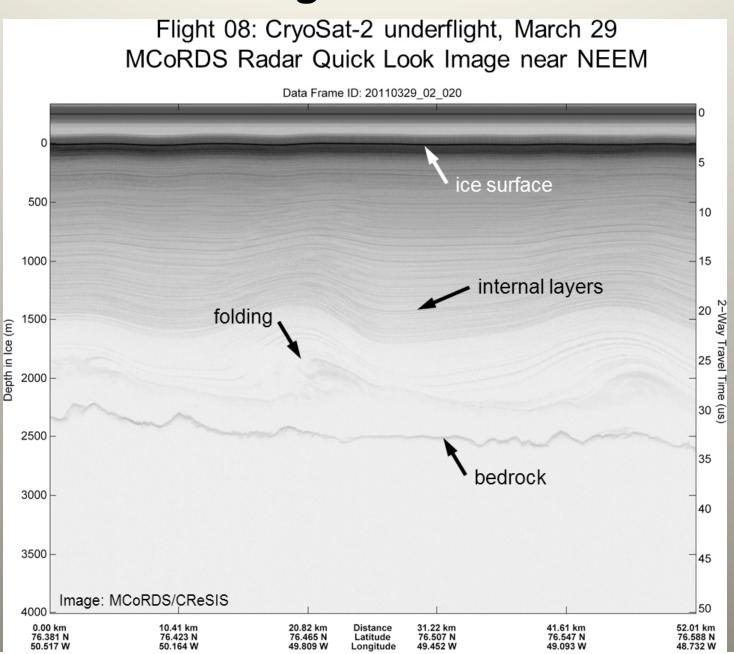






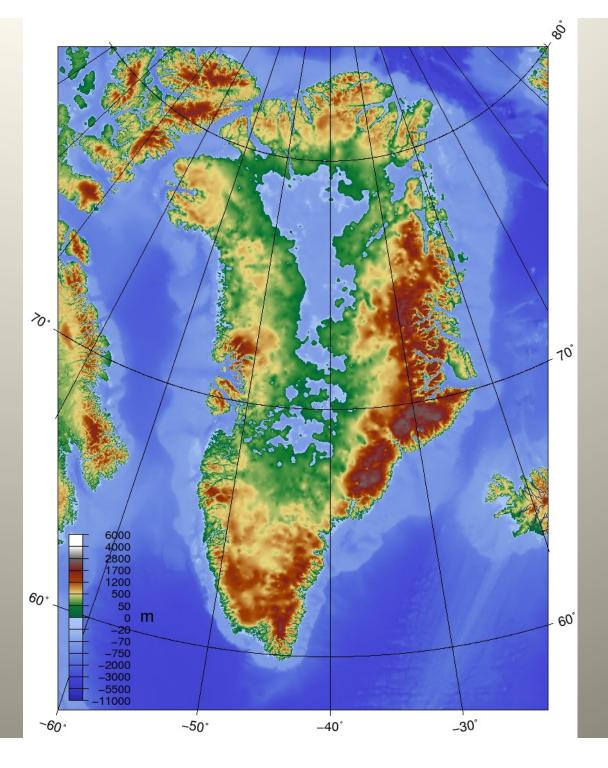


# Ice Penetrating Radar - Greenland



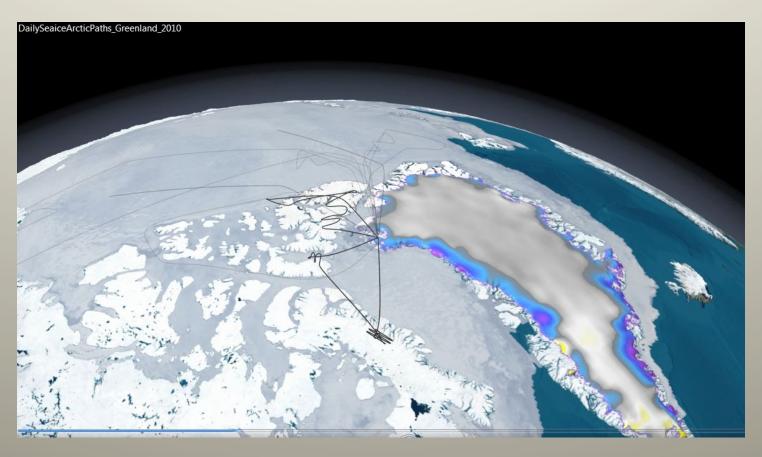
# **Greenland** with no ice

Greenland Bedrock Topographical Map



## Arctic / Greenland

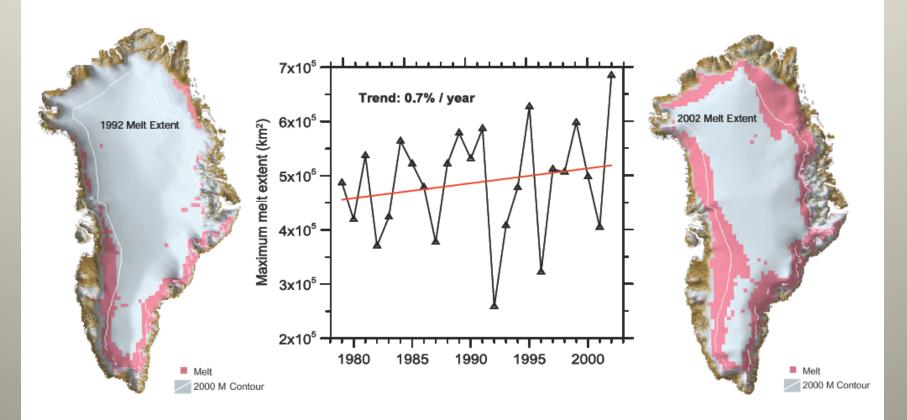
Arctic/Greenland Sea/Land Ice Flights2010







## Melting Arctic Ice Passive Microwave derived maximum melt extent



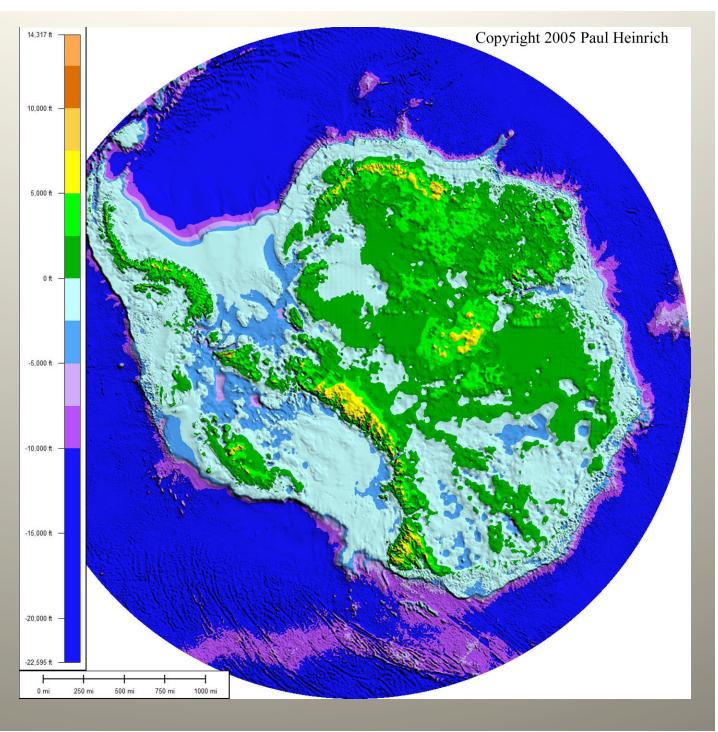
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Greenland ice sheet melt area increased on average by 16% from 1979 to 2002. The smallest melt extent was observed after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1992

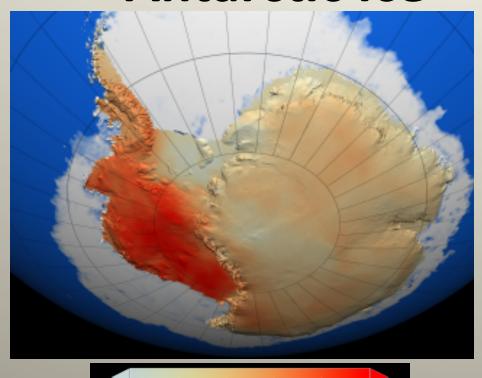
University of Colorado ESPO

# Antarctica with no ice

Antarctica Bedrock Topographical Map



# Melting Antarctic Ice

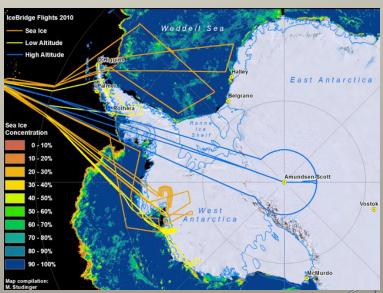


The image incorporates temperature data collected over a 50-year period from 1957 to 2006

Degrees C per Year

#### Antarctica 2009 Flights





Antarctica 2010 Flights



## Sea Level Rise

 According to the Third Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change, the ice contained within the Antarctic Ice-sheet represents
 61.1 metres of sea-level change. The ice contained within Greenland Ice Sheet represents a sea-level rise equivalent of 7.2 metres.

#### **NASA Antarctica DC-8**





## The big question

How much do human's contribute to earths changing processes?

**How and Why?** 

# "The number of microorganisms in a culture broth will grow exponentially until an essential nutrient is exhausted."

Metaphorically
Earth = Culture Broth
Microorganisms = Humans

"20,000 species are used in traditional medicine, which forms the basis of primary health care for about 80% of the 3 billion people in developing countries"

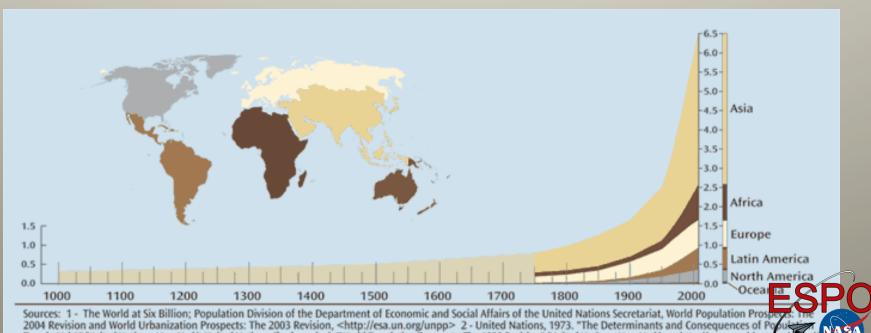


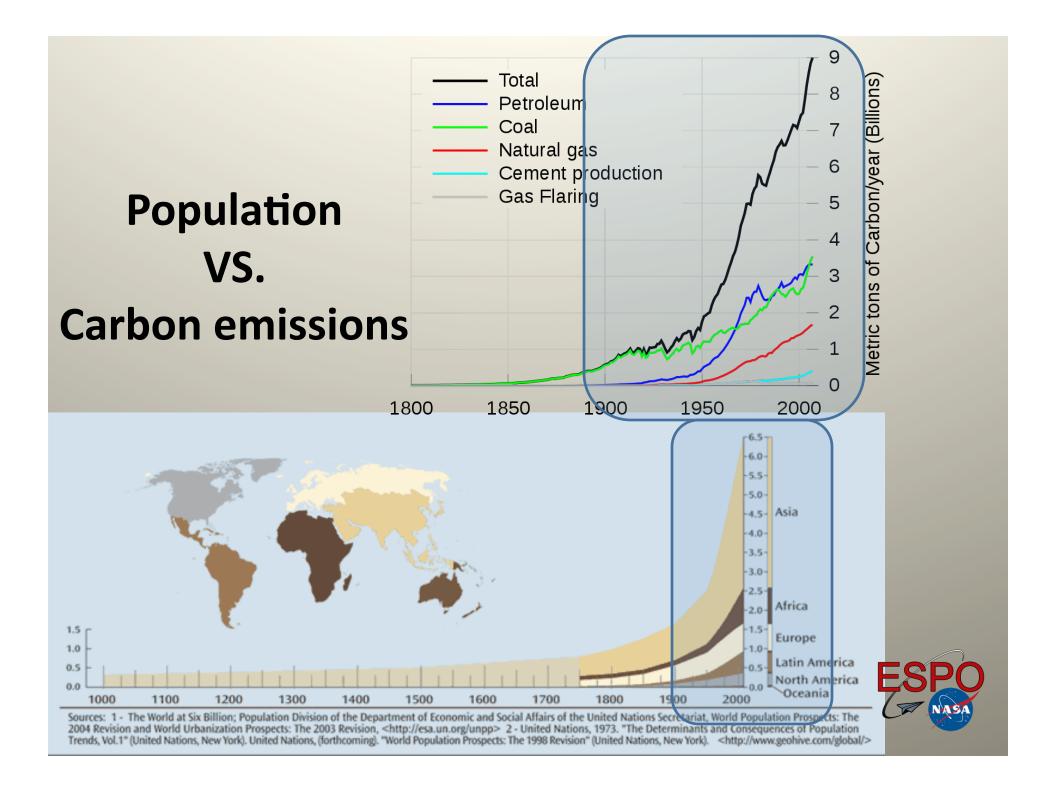
## **Human Population**

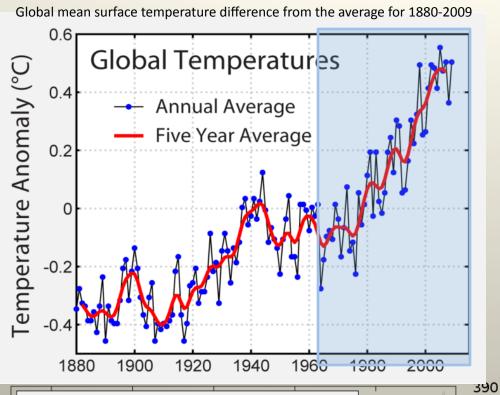
"The collapse of the first civilization on earth, the Summerian, affected only a half a million." The fall of Rome affected tens of millions. If ours were to fail... it would bring catastrophe on billions." 1

Directly or indirectly, the human species already captures nearly 40% of the total biological productivity on land and 70% of the productivity of the marine environment - the "net primary productivity" of the planet - for its exclusive use. The rate of increase in human use is about 2% per year." 2

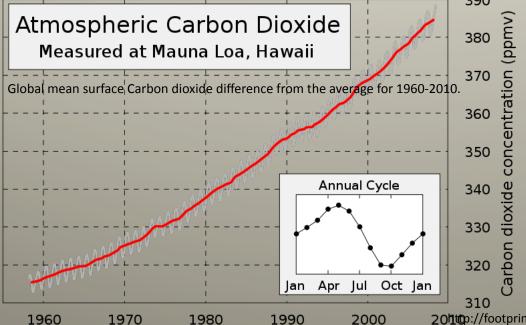
The biotic crisis - as a direct result of industrial civilization's disruptive impact, planet earth has begun the 6th great biological extinction period in its entire 4.5 billion year history. During previous extinction events biodiversity was reduced by up to 70-90%. After past events, recovery took roughly 5 million years. However, the current depletion of biological diversity and in particular the prospect of severe depletion if not virtual elimination of tropical forests, wetlands, estuaries and coral reefs that have been the "engines of biodiversity" for hundreds of millions of years, may have profound effects on the evolutionary processes that have previously fostered rediversification. Even our largest protected areas will be far too small for the further speciation of large vertebrates. On the time scale of the human species, environmental disruption (or at least aspects of it) is permanent. 3





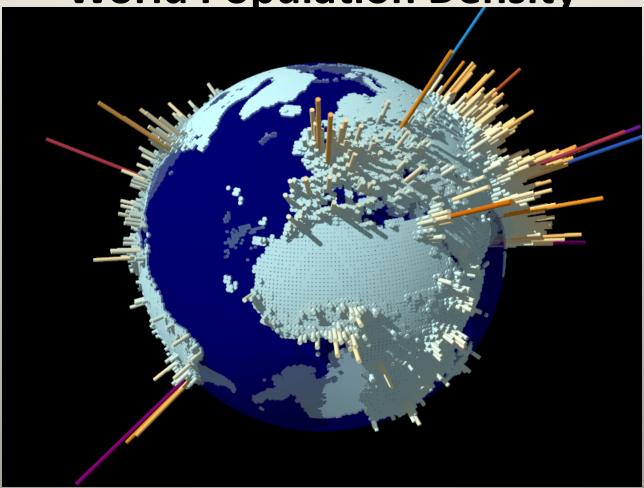


# Carbon emissions VS. Global Temperatures





**World Population Density** 



World Population Globe representation Image by Arenamontanus via Flickr

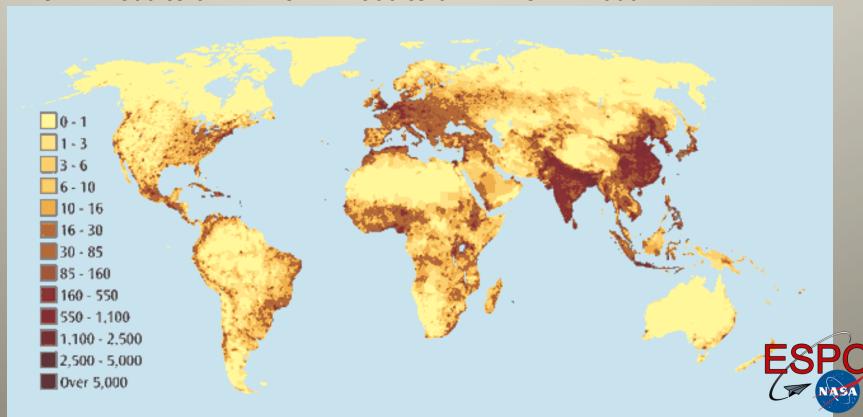
Population density. Data from the G-Econ project <u>gecon.yale.edu/</u> Rendered using Matlab and PovRay.



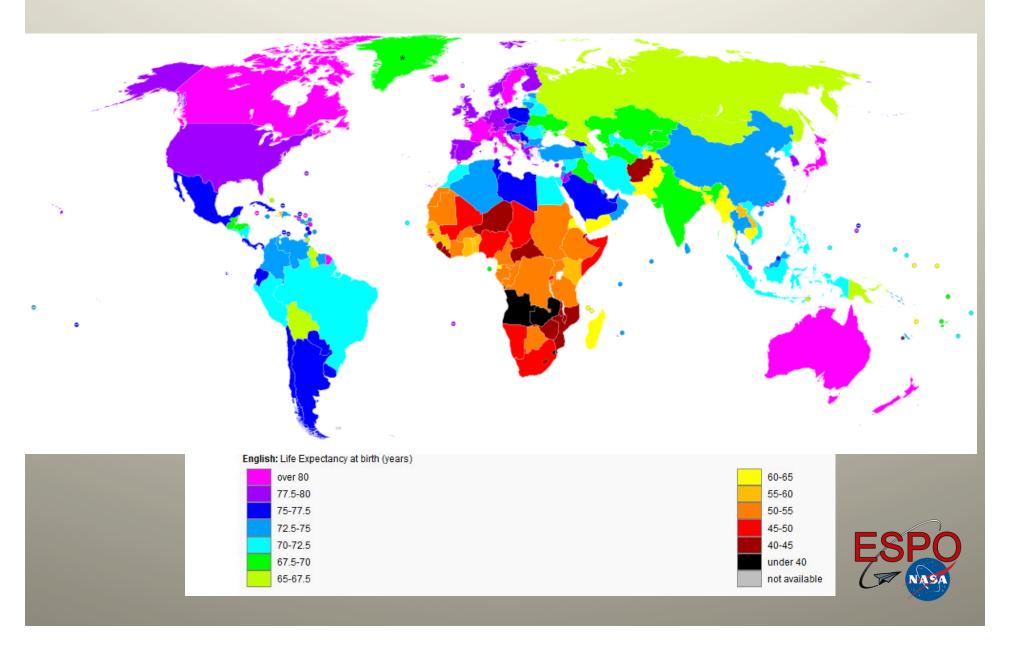
### **Growth of Urban Areas**

The world's rural population has reached its peak and the world's urban slums (with 1 billion people and 32% of the global urban population) will absorb almost all further population growth - likely 1 billion more slum dwellers within 30 years.

"The average size of the world's 100 largest cities grew from around 0.2 million in 1800 to 0.7 million in 1900 to 6.2 million in 2000."



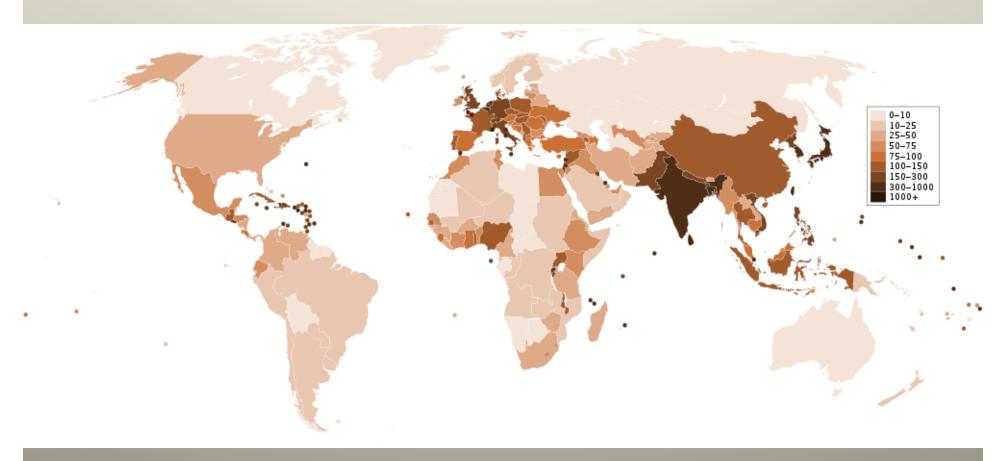
## Average Life-Span in years/country



## **Average Life Span by Era**

Humans by Era	Average Lifespan at Birth (years)	Comment
Upper Paleolithic	33	At age 15: 39 (to age 54)[6][7]
Neolithic <sup>[8]</sup>	20	
Bronze Age and Iron Age <sup>[9]</sup>	26	
Classical Greece <sup>[10]</sup>	28	
Classical Rome <sup>[10]</sup>	28	At age 15: 37 (to age 52)
Pre-Columbian North America	25-30	
Medieval Islamic Caliphate <sup>[12]</sup>	35+	
Medieval Britain <sup>[13][14]</sup>	30	At age 21: 38 (to age 59) as an average for British aristocrats  [15]
Early Modern Britain <sup>[9]</sup>	40+	
Early 20th Century[16][17]	30-45	
Current world average[18]	67.2	2010 est.

## **Population Density by Country**





## **#1 Reason for Global Climate Change**





Dhaka Bangladesh



To many people!!



## **Earths Optimal Population??**

- Estimations
- Various end-targets are often balanced together in estimating the optimum human population, and different emphasis on different endtargets cause variability among estimates.
- The optimal world population has been estimated by a team co-authored by Paul R. Ehrlich. [4] End-targets in this estimation included:
- Decent wealth and resources to everyone
- Basic <u>human rights</u> to everyone
- Preservation of <u>cultural diversity</u>
- Allowance of intellectual, artistic, and technological creativity
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Based on this, the estimation of optimum population was to be roughly around 1.5 billion to 2 billion people. [4]
- The UK based <u>think tank Population Matters</u>, (formerly known as the
  Optimum Population Trust), has calculated the optimum population
  nearly 150 countries. [5]

#### **Direct Human Effect on Earth**

- Population the more people the more issues affecting the globe
- MORE Manufacturing and Consumption
- MORE Atmospheric pollution
- MORE Water Pollution
- MORE Soil Degradation

More of everything!!



# Earth's Changing from Anthropogenic (human) Influences

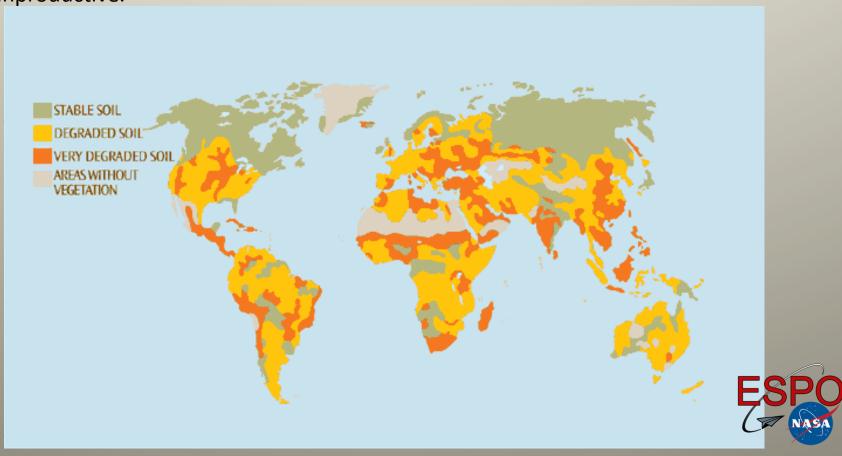
- Solar Radiation increasing due to increased CO2, methane and other pollutants- decreased reflectance
- Atmospheric Temperatures increasing
- Ocean temperatures increasing
- Rising Sea Levels –due to temperature increases
- Mass migration away from current coastline
- Immigration issues between countries
- Farming food shortages
- Wildlife/insect/plant extinction
- Massive Economic Changes
- Global Power Struggle



## **Human Influence on Soil Degradation**

About 2 billion hectares of soil, equivalent to 15 per cent of the Earth's land area (an area larger than the United States and Mexico combined), have been degraded through human activities.

"Over the past 40 years, approximately 30% of the world's cropland has become unproductive."



## **Human Population and Coastal Waters**



## Things that can help but what is the tipping point? Can we turn the clock back?

- Global leadership is Required
- Lower emissions from every person
- Different manufacturing policies and procedures world wide
- Personal ownership of the problem
- Continued research for understanding

......Maybe
But we have to do our best to be
good Stuarts to this planet



## Earth Science Research + World Economics = Double Edge Sword

- Wealthy countries pay for research
  - CON Wealthy countries expect massive consumption to continue (Capitalism)
- Poorer countries need economic assistance
  - Wealthy countries utilize poor countries for production of goods (cheap labor = cheap products)
  - Economically dependent on the Wealthy countries massive consumption

## **Man Made Satellites**







#### Northern Greenland Glacier

All glacier images take by Michael Studinger. Operation IceBridge Project Scientist











Umimamako Glacier



#### South Eastern Glacier

All glacier images take by Michael Studinger. Operation IceBridge Project Scientist

#### Resourses

#### **Human Population:**

#### **Text Sources:**

- 1. A Short History of Progress, Ronald Wright, House of Anansi, 2004
- 2. Environmental Research Foundation, <a href="https://www.ejnet.org/rachel/rhwn256.htm">www.ejnet.org/rachel/rhwn256.htm</a>
- 3. The Biotic Crisis and the Future of Evolution, PNAS -

www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/98/10/5389

#### **World Population Density Map Source:**

Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, "Grided Population of the World"

**Text: 1.**The Challenge of Slums - UN-HABITAT's Global Report on Human Settlements, www.unchs.org

**2.** UN World Water Development, www.unesco.org/water/wwap/facts figures/water industry.shtml

#### **Biodiversity:**

http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/1997/october29/population.html; What We Must Do to Counter the Biotic Holocaust, Myers, www.nwf.org/internationalwildlife/1998/holocaus.html

#### Resourses

#### Life span world map

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Life Expectancy 2008 Estimates CIA World Factbook.svg

#### **Exponential Growth**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exponential growth

#### **Optimal Population**

Gretchen C. Daily, Anne H. Ehrlich, and Paul R. Ehrlich. Optimum Human Population Size.

Population and Environment: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies Volume 15, Number 6, July 1994 01994 Human Sciences Press, Inc.

Optimum Population Trust: "Sustainable populations by country"

#### **Soil Degradation Map Source:**

UN GLASOD: 1990 Global Assessment of Human Induced Soil Degradation, <a href="http://www.isric.org/UK/About+ISRIC/Projects/Track+Record/GLASOD.htm">http://www.isric.org/UK/About+ISRIC/Projects/Track+Record/GLASOD.htm</a>

#### Text:

- 1. UN Global Environment Outlook
- 3, www.grida.no/geo/geo3/english/141.htm
- 2. "Soil as an Endangered Ecosystem", David Pimental, Bioscience; Nov 2000

#### Climate REEL

NASA videos for climate change

http://climate.nasa.gov/ClimateReel/

